

bably the mud of a backwater of the Irrawaddy 200 yds. away. In early March, Capt. J. G. Hurrell saw as many as six in one jungle-fowl beat near Myitkyina. I have seen these birds flushed out of quite dry grass jungle by day, but one of their favourite haunts seems scrub or cane-brake jungle where shallow streams run out into the fields. Capt. Lyle tells me he has shot them at Sima (4,000 ft.) fighting to places where springs come out of the hillside. They rarely fly far in a beat and when first flushed, if not shot at, usually pitch again within 100 yds. It is to be hoped that before long the Woodcock will be found breeding in the hills of the North-East Frontier of Burma, on the Tibet or Yunnan border. There must be some breeding area in between the Himalayas and the North China hills which is yet to be discovered.

MYITKYINA.
April 14, 1935.

J. K. STANFORD,
Indian Civil Service.

XXI.—ALBINO FAN-TAIL SNIPE (*CAPELLA G.*
GALLINAGO LINN.).

I am sending you under separate cover a white snipe I shot about 20 miles from Bangalore on the 20th instant. I don't know how common such a specimen is but thought it might interest you.

I was shooting the border of a shallow tank where the snipe were fairly plentiful but wild. A couple got up together at extreme range and I fired the left barrel at the leading snipe but missed. I then noticed that the second one appeared completely white. I marked it down about 400 yds. further on and eventually shot it sitting as I didn't want it to escape again! It was very conspicuous, being visible from well over 100 yds. away where an ordinary snipe would have been unnoticed at 20. I apologise for the very bad skinning but I had to do it late at night.

Lt.-Col. J. V. J. Ellis, R.A., who has since gone home, told me about last November that he had seen a white snipe while shooting from Bangalore, but had failed to get a shot at it.

R. A. MESS,
BANGALORE.
January 23, 1935.

H. C. M. DUNN,
Lt., R.A.

XXII.—A SECOND RECORD OF THE OCCURRENCE OF
THE LONG-TAILED DUCK (*CLANGULA HYEMALIS*
LINN.) IN INDIA.
IN INDIA.

(With a photo).

I enclose herewith two photographs of a specimen of a drake Long-tailed Duck, *Clangula hyemalis*, which I shot on a wide sweep of the River Brahmaputra at Messaki, at the western end of the Pasighat Sub-Division of the Sadiya Frontier Tract, on Wednesday the 23rd of January, 1935. I tried to skin the bird,

but knowing very little of the business and how to preserve the skin, it went bad in the end. I kept one of the long tail 'pins' however which I also enclose herewith. The other 'pin' was somewhat shorter. I do not think there is any possibility of a mistake in identification for the black and white plumage with the black chest and white abdomen, the long 'pins' in the tail and the pink and black bill (a typical duck's bill) were to my mind unmistak-



The Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)

able. The bird when first seen was swimming in the water quite close to the boat in which my wife and I were; but it seemed unable to fly. It gave a fine exhibition of diving before it was shot. I killed it thinking it was an injured smew. Later I discovered the apparent reason for its inability to fly, for it was gorged right up to the mouth with small freshwater shrimps. There were two other flocks of duck on the same water of which the males looked black and white and were apparently; the females looked dark brown, through a pair of field glasses. I was unable to get a shot at them for they were very wild. I cannot say therefore for certain if they were the same species as the one I shot, although the black and white birds in the flocks looked the same from the distance. These two flocks were on the same water on 16th February 1935 when I returned to Messaki on the homeward journey of my tour, but although I tried hard to secure another bird, I failed, for they were as wild as ever.

I cannot account for the bird I shot for its presence where I shot it seems very extraordinary indeed. It was very fat and seemed very heavy for its size. It was in splendid condition. Doubt will probably be cast on the record since I see that the duck has only been recorded once before in India and that from Baluchistan, but I think the accompanying photographs will set it at rest.

PASIGHAT, N.-E. FRONTIER,
ASSAM, INDIA.
April 1, 1935.

R. E. PARSONS,
Assistant Political Officer.